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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/666,301	09/21/2000	Robert J. Martin	017750-506	8409

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EXAMINER

MORAN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,301

Applicant(s)

MARTIN, ROBERT J.

Examiner

Timothy J. Moran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2, 3. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not adequately describe the invention. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure. A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 7, line 12, "120" should be replaced with "115." Also, on page 10, line 24, "figure 4" should be replaced with "figure 2." Also, on page 1, the application serial numbers should be stated.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Joseph, U. S. Patent No. 3,624,501. Regarding claims 1-3, Joseph describes a circuit (figure 1)

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comprising a first charge well (capacitor C1) for receiving moving charges from a radiation detector (col. 1, lines 33-39), a second charge well (capacitor C2), and means (PUSH BUTTON SWITCH SW) for selectively switching said second charge well in parallel with said first charge well to vary the integration time of said moving charges (col. 1, lines 54-62 and col. 2, lines 3-5). Here the term "integration time" is understood to be equivalent to the term "time constant." Also, here the category of the term "charge well" is understood to include capacitors. Joseph teaches the charges are from a nuclear radiation detector, which can comprise a photodetector, since nuclear radiation commonly includes X-ray photons.

Regarding claim 4, Joseph teaches a method of supplying moving charges from a photodetector to an integration capacitance, and the selective varying of said integration capacitance to vary the integration time of said moving charges (col. 1, lines 54-62 and col. 2, lines 3-5).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Trett, U. S. Patent No. 4,839,605, describes (fig. 1 and fig. 2) a circuit (upper circuitry connected to photodetector 20) comprising a first resistor (122B) for receiving moving charges from a photodetector (20), a second resistor (123B), and means (117B) for selectively switching the second resistor in parallel with the first resistor to vary the integration time of the moving charges (col. 1, line 56-col. 2, line 2, AND col. 2, lines 48-53, AND col. 3, lines 23-30). Although fig. 2 illustrates an embodiment which comprises a plurality of resistors and the switching of circuits

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containing such resistors, the use of a plurality of capacitors and the switching of circuits containing such capacitors is clearly taught (col. 1, line 56-col. 2, line 2 AND col. 5, lines 18-23).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Moran whose telephone number is 703-305-0849. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seungsook Ham can be reached on 703-308-4090. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

T. M.

TM

February 21, 2002


SEUNGSOOK HAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800